

SIGHTS SEEN BY TRAVELER ALONG THE MODERN NILE

Traveling by the ordinary methods you may go from Alexandria to Khartoum in about six days, says the London Standard. Easily and smoothly you wing through the fertile cotton fields of the delta and its populous cities and villages, prosperous but dirty, and at Cairo you settle down into a most comfortable sleeping car for the night journey to Luxor. Early next morning you are in the cane fields of upper Egypt, with the river close on one side and the desert on the other.

At Luxor you must change to the narrow gauge for Assuan, and there is time to refresh yourself with bath and breakfast and to look across at the plain of Thebes and the valley of the tomb of the kings, or to ride a mule out to Karnak. From Luxor to Assuan it is hot and dusty enough, and you are glad to rest there for the night. Next day you embark at Shellal, above the dam, for Wady Halfa, a leisurely voyage of three days. It is a most beautiful reach of the river; the hills come down to the water in bold, rugged outlines, showing to perfection in the pure, dry desert air. The effect of the dam is clearly seen as far as Korosko. First of all, at Shellal the boat is moored amid a grove of palm trees, the temples of Nubian villages look quaint enough as they stand on the edge of the desert, forlornly mourning their strip of cultivated land, most of which the greedy reservoir has swallowed.

The boundary between Egypt and the Sudan, settled by the convention of 1899, runs along the twenty-second parallel; not far beyond this is the frontier town of Halfa. There is no mistaking the signs of British rule. The

whole place is rigidly clean, an extraordinary contrast to the filth of the Egyptian villages. The streets are well laid out and scrupulously swept, and shady avenues of trees are springing up. Halfa is the railway terminus of the Sudan. It is twenty-eight hours to Khartoum. Nothing can be more comfortable than the well-appointed sleeping-car train, which runs twice a week. Starting at eight in the evening, you strike right across the Bayda desert, most desolate and forlorn of countries. The stations have no names, but are known merely by their numbers. In the morning you come to Abu Hamed—back to the Nile once more. Here was the scene of one of the stiffest fights in the Sudan campaign, when Gen. Hunter made his dash from Korkei, and here are the graves of the white officers of the Tenth Sudanese battalion, round which the black soldiers who died with them keep ghostly watch and ward forever, and so redeem the credit of the regiment, which came back from the battle without its leader.

From here onward the journey is full of interest. Berber is springing up again from its ruins; it even boasts two stations. Then comes the Atbara, with its famous bridges, and then Matiner, where there is this year a camp of exercise for the Egyptian army. The camp had a most business-like appearance. Just as we arrived a train came steaming in with a battalion of infantry, all in full marching order; it was exactly like a regiment detaching at the front in real war. Shendi is the Crewe of the Sudan, and, an hour or two later, we ran into the terminus at Halfaya.

RICH FINDS MADE IN OLD TOMBS IN EGYPT

Some important archaeological discoveries made recently at Beni Hasan, a site in Egypt famous for its painted tombs and early architectural features, are detailed by Prof. John Garstang, of University college, Liverpool.

A vast necropolis has been unearthed, remarkable for the preservation of the furniture in its tombs and for the wealth of material which these supplied in illustrating the burial customs of the Middle Empire. Four hundred and ninety-two tombs hewn in the rock have been opened and examined. More than 100 of them had never been previously entered since their doors were closed at the time of interment 4,000 years before.

In the tomb of one Nefery, a chief physician, the huge painted coffin was surrounded by a number of wooden models of objects and scenes familiar from the wall paintings of the larger tombs.

Upon the coffin rested a great rowing boat, the twenty oarsmen standing and swing back in time to the beat of two figures seated on a raised platform in the center. Beyond this was the

model of a granary with six compartments in rows of three on either side of the courtyard between them. Men were standing knee deep in real grain filling baskets, while a scribe seated on the roof, pen in hand, kept count.

A well-executed group found by the excavators in another tomb represented the making of beer from fermentation of break by a similar process to that employed by the natives to-day. Beside the coffin was a sailing boat, the numerous sailors assuaging the attitude necessary for hoisting the large square sail, of which the yards and rigging were preserved. Two men, in characteristic pose, were using poles vigorously over the sides.

In another tomb were found models of a number of warships. In the bow of one, by the side of the lookout, stood a negro sailor, bow and arrow in hand. In the tomb of Antef, a courtier, the boats had double steering cars. In one boat were seated two men under a canopy, playing a game of chess.

The opening of each tomb was recorded by photography, as the excavation proceeded step by step, 450 negatives being taken in all.

LIFE AND LOVE BOTH CHEAP IN THE CAUCASUS

In the northern Caucasus nearly half the death rate of the inhabitants is caused by vendetta, and at least three-fourths of the vendetta cases are the result of a curious marriage custom which is now decimating the population. The native of those parts who wishes to take unto himself a wife cannot arrange the matter in the simple offhand manner in vogue in western Europe by "popping the question."

He must go home, sell his belongings, and buy her fairly and squarely of her parents, the price ranging from \$175 to \$1,000. This is a costly custom in many ways, for it is not every young man who can afford to invest such a large sum in a wife, however accomplished. What generally happens in such cases is that the indigent candidate for the order of Benedick induces a few stalwart comrades to seize the maiden and carry her off.

What too often follows then may be

gathered from a case in point which has just taken place in Sossilambek. Bokayeff is the bridegroom's name, and Neshkho that of the girl of sweet sixteen who had the misfortune to find favor in his eyes. His pockets being empty he persuaded three comrades to kidnap the maid, whom he then took off to another village as his wife.

But her father, on discovering her whereabouts, had her sent back by the police, and then demanded \$150 for loss of her services, as we should say. Bokayeff, to whom the demand was made, would not or could not pay. The girl's father thereupon claimed that sum from the bridegroom's companions, who are equally liable. They admitted the justice of his claim and called up Bokayeff to hand over the sum to them. On his refusal they shot him dead, that being the custom of the country, although daggers are also allowed to take the place of bullets.

As Others See Us.

"You always say the wrong thing at the right time, Henry," said Mrs. Packem. "Now, I always think twice before I speak."

"Yes, my dear," replied the meek and lowly Henry, "but you are one of those rapid-fire thinkers."

Double Breach.

A Manchester (England) man is suing a woman for breach of promise, and she is suing him on the same charge. They won't agree to a compromise.

Benefits By King's Death.

John Gollmar, formerly editor of a Serbian newspaper, but expelled from that country for exposing the bogus baby scheme of Queen Draga, has been residing in Janesville, Wis., for some years past. Since the tragedy at Belgrade he has received intelligence that his sentence will be revoked and intends to return to Serbia at an early date.

Italy's King.

The King of Italy is five feet three inches in height.

FIGHT WITH A DEVILFISH.

Giant Squid Nearly Sinks a 40-ton Smack Off Newfoundland.

A forty-ton vessel, the Vivid, of Fortuna Bay, Newfoundland, recently escaped by a narrow margin from being drawn to the bottom of the sea by a giant squid. The vessel was off Cape St. Mary's, when the lookout thought he discovered a mammoth lump of ambergris floating at a distance of 150 yards. When the vessel approached sufficiently near to the supposed ambergris Joseph Ellis, whose duty it was to use the gaff, struck at the floating object. In the twinkling of an eye the still thing drifting idly on the waters became a demon furious with life, thrashing, grappling, squirming, feeling for everything within its reach. Great clouds of inky stuff dyed the water. A monstrous beak pecked at the Vivid's oaken sides. Two giant eyes focused on the deck seeking something to seize. Instead of ambergris Ellis had struck a devilfish.

Out of the depths arose a bewildering array of tentacles, twisting and crawling all over the smack. They fastened on the bulwarks and squirmed inboard. They felt their way around the masts and up the flattened sails. All the while the ponderous beak of this demon thing of the deep was pounding at the ship, eager to sink it. The Vivid lay on the tumbling seas like a dead thing, with the octopus madly trying to drag it down into the depths.

"Knives and axes, there!" fairly screamed the captain to the men, who stood stupefied on deck.

As if to meet the coming battle to the death, the devilfish seized the masts in a firm grip with two of its stoutest tentacles. Then it tried to sink to the bottom of the sea, bent on dragging the schooner with it. Round



and round it wrapped its feelers about the spars, sending up fresh ones to aid those that had already taken hold. Slowly the sturdy Vivid began to yield to the mighty arms that reached up out of the waves. Over and over she bent. The big body that thrashed in the water fought more and more madly to tilt over the boat till she capsized.

Just then the monster threw up more of its tentacles and in a second Moulton, the captain, Ellis and a sailor named Jenns were held fast by the powerful arms. Another sailor had fortunately seized an ax and with resounding blows he severed one after another of the mighty arms, until his companions were freed. The monster soon began to lose its hold of the vessel and slowly dropped back into the waters, which had been made inky black by the foul-smelling fluid which it had squirted from its body. With difficulty the Vivid made port, for there was a hole in her side, made by the beak of the squid, while her masts and sails were scarred and torn by the giant arms which had all but pulled her down to the depths.

Natural Mimicry.

Visitors to the insect house at the London Zoo have the opportunity of expressing wonder at the natural provision which renders it possible for certain butterflies and other insects



for protective purposes to imitate plants of various kinds. These entomological curiosities are particularly plentiful in Brazil. Two butterflies will be found in the spring in our illustration, simulating the leaves, and one in the air approaching.

First Biblical Mention of Shaving.

The first record of shaving is in the Bible, Genesis xii, 14. Joseph is described as shaving himself, changing his garments and going to see Pharaoh.

Could Not Loop the Loop.

The Paris public have long been crazy over looping the loop, and in view of the high salary drawn by the only performer doing the act (an American) a Parisian has decided that there would be money in opening a school to teach young men to do the feat, proposing to share the money made when taught. The difficulty was that the first scholar of the loop school was promptly killed and Schran, the promoter of the enterprise, found himself arrested for manslaughter through contributory negligence. The cyclist killed was Albert Mennegris, nineteen years old. The school has suspended.

This Will Interest Mothers.

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